

NSC BRIEFING

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BACKGROUND - SITUATION IN PALESTINE

Arab-Israel Military Equipment

I. Aircraft

A. Israel: Total aircraft - 288.

Fighters - 80 (25 jets - 12 MD 4-50's -  
French; 13 Meteors - British) (53  
piston - F-51's - American - Spitfires  
- British)

Bombers - 58 (55 light - Mosquitoes -  
British; 3 medium - B-17's - American)  
Combat ready - 25 jet and 14 piston  
fighters, 27 light and 1 medium bomber

B. Egypt: Total aircraft - 260.

Fighters - 64 (52 jets - Meteors, Vam-  
pires - British; 12 piston - Spitfires  
- British)

Bombers - 6 medium (Lancasters -  
British)

Combat ready - 24 jet and 7 piston.  
fighters, 4 medium bombers.

C. Syria: Total aircraft - 166.

Fighters - 71 (18 jets - Meteors -  
British; 53 piston - Fiat; Macchi -  
Italian; Spitfires-British)

Bombers - none.

Combat ready - no jets, possibly 24  
piston fighters.

D. Jordan: Total aircraft - 21.

No combat types.

E. Lebanon: Total aircraft - 28.

Fighters - 5 jets - Meteors - British.

Bombers - 4 light - Savoia Marchetti -  
Italian.

Combat ready - 2 jet fighters, 4 bombers.

F. Iraq: Total aircraft - 147.

Fighters - 61 (21 jets - Meteors, Vam-  
pires - British; 40 piston - Hawker  
Furies - British)

Bombers - none.

Combat ready - 21 jet and 36 piston  
fighters

G. Saudi Arabia: Total aircraft - 20.

Fighters - none.

Bombers - 6 light - B-26's American.

Combat ready - 6 bombers are in flying condition, though competent pilots are probably not available for combat duty.

Total Arab States aircraft - 542.

Combat types combat ready - 128.

Total Israel aircraft - 288.

Combat types combat ready - 67.